

MINUTES
CITY OF WOODSTOCK
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
October 7, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the City of Woodstock Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Erica Poremba at 5:27 PM on Thursday, October 7, 2021.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION MEMBERS ATTENDING: Ed Ellinghausen, Laurie Kacmar, Margaret Schneemann, Steve Wenzel and Chair Erica Poremba.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF ATTENDING: Public Works Department Director Christina Betz and Billing Coordinator Paola Ramirez.

OTHERS PRESENT: Scott Kuykendall.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Motion by Chair Erica Poremba, second by L. Kacmar to delay accepting the minutes from the September 2, 2021 meeting. The minutes were not attached to the agenda. Ayes: E. Ellinghausen, L. Kacmar, M. Schneemann, S. Wenzel and Chair E. Poremba. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried

FLOOR DISCUSSION

a. Public Comment: None

b. Commission Comment: No comments were made by the Commission members outside of agenda items.

4. TRANSMITTALS (no discussion or action requested)

a. FY22/23 CIP Instructions Memo and Project Form

Chairwoman Erica Poremba ask Public Works Director Christina Betz for clarification of what documentation needs to be submitted by October 29, 2021. Christina Betz stated the intent of the transmittal is to follow along with item of business 6C for discussion, as well as item 6D. E. Ellinghausen referenced the Brine tank acclimation study in the CIP and stated there is nothing further that the Commission can do with it; it is now in the hands of Public Works. Christina Betz confirmed. E. Ellinghausen asked for funding to automate collection of material for the brine tank. E. Ellinghausen would like to move forward to get some funding and would like to endorse moving forward on this project.

b. Location Options for Community Gardens Additional Plots-nothing was discussed

5. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- a. Guest Speaker: Scott Kuykendall. Topic: Water Resources Action Plan (WRAP) Update

S. Kuykendall gave a brief background on his role and responsibilities at the McHenry County Department of Planning and Development. S. Kuykendall begins his presentation by discussing the importance of water and its impact on economic development. S. Kuykendall stated that McHenry County is 100% dependent on groundwater aquifers for its water supply. He goes on to describe the three different types of aquifers: sand/gravel, limestone and bedrock. S. Kuykendall goes on to talk about how the three different types of aquifers are hydrologically connected. S. Kuykendall reviewed the damage from urbanization and what has been done to restore natural areas.

He then indicated that there are three sandstone aquifers in McHenry County. The top layer is the St. Peter sandstone, which is recharged in the western part of McHenry County. S. Kuykendall noted the Ironton-Galesville is the main aquifer used in McHenry County and recharged in North Central Wisconsin. He indicates that the Ironton-Galesville aquifer is not a sustainable supply of water due to the time it takes for the water to recharge. He reviewed the possibility of using the Mt. Simon aquifer in the future as a source of fresh water. S. Kuykendall indicated that Woodstock taps into the Ashmore Aquifer. S. Kuykendall went into more detail regarding the aquifers and the website for creating the mapping.

S. Kuykendall stated that Well #8 is being worked on by the City. C. Betz responded that Well #8 and Well #11 are both being worked on. C. Betz said that well #8 is having emergency repairs due to the storm and being rehabbed. S. Kuykendall asked C. Betz if we have 5 wells that are active. C. Betz stated she believes that is a correct number. (C. Betz checked after the meeting and the correct number of groundwater wells in Woodstock is 6 wells). S. Kuykendall went into detail about a study regarding the Illinois State Water Survey in 2009. S. Kuykendall talked about flood damage due to more precipitation and less permeable surfaces. S. Kuykendall said during a drought we increase our water up to 50% and we have now had a full year of drought. The county is working to restore natural areas that have been damaged by flooding and drought.

S. Kuykendall says the Water Resources Action Plan (WRAP) has been updated by the Department of Planning and Development with the help of the Water Resources Action Task Force with 160 participants that focused on the issues in McHenry County. It was adopted by the County Board in November 2020. The plan is 18 chapters and broken up in 4 main sections. Section 1 is an Introduction and an overview of why the Plan is important. Section 2 is made up of chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7 with chapter 5 being the most important chapter. Chapter 3 discusses major water issues that applies to the remaining chapters. Chapter 4 is Land Uses and talks about the details of chapters 12-18. S. Kuykendall also goes into detail regarding nutrients in water waste and stresses the importance of data sharing between municipalities and public education and outreach. He concluded his presentation with responding to questions from members of the commission.

Commission member S. Wenzel questioned S. Kuykendall about the graphic that was shown. Chair Poremba asked S. Kuykendall a question regarding testing her own well. S. Kuykendall stressed the importance and safety of maintaining your own private well. Chair Poremba asked if the commission can endorse the WRAP. C. Betz said they can look into promoting the plan by adding it to the Public Works webpage, City Hall main banner page and add a link to the Public Works Facebook page. E. Ellinghausen asked S. Kuykendall if he has made the presentation to the

City Council. S. Kuykendall said not yet, but he would like to give the presentation to City Council and give out hard copies. E. Ellinghausen asked if the Commission can recommend the presentation to the City Council. S. Kuykendall talked about updating the plan in five years. S. Kuykendall talked about reducing consumption of water and additional sources. E. Ellinghausen mentioned to S. Kuykendall that Huntley started using purple pipes. Mr. Kuykendall talked about pollution control and what the drawbacks are when updating infrastructure. Commission members thanked S. Kuykendall for his presentation; C. Betz will send out the presentation via email to the commission members.

b. 2022 Calendar Year Meeting Schedule

Chair Poremba initiated the discussion for the 2022 Calendar Year Meeting Schedule. C. Betz said this item came at the request of the City Manager for any changes to the schedule. Chair Poremba asked the rest of the commission for approval to continue their meetings on a monthly basis on the first Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm. Commission members agreed. Chair Poremba said the commission will add in special meetings during the year, as needed.

c. FY22/23 Capital Improvement Plan Call for Projects

C. Betz said this item was placed on the agenda at the request of the City Manager. Chair Poremba said that this is very helpful. C. Betz asked if there are any items the commission would like to have considered during the CIP Planning process. Chair Poremba stated that the commission would not plan to put the garden plots down because the commission looks to get grant funding for the project. C. Betz agreed. C. Betz clarified that the projects are typically for \$10,000 or more. Chair Poremba asked how much is back in the environmental fund since the City started collecting the bag fee. Chair Poremba stated she believes that \$175,000 was supposed to go back into the fund. E. Ellinghausen stated he believes that it was only \$40,000. Chair Poremba stated there is a potential for the Brine study to be a CIP project. Chair Poremba would like to ask for the money that is in the environmental fund, instead of going through the budget process. Chair Poremba reminded E. Ellinghausen the turnaround for the CIP project submittal is October 29th. E. Ellinghausen stated he did a cost benefit analysis which he gave to C. Betz. E. Ellinghausen recalled that it would be \$26,000 to automate collection of material. C. Betz clarified that it is October 29th in which she has to have projects submitted along with a dollar amount and the narratives will come later in the CIP Process. C. Betz said by November 19th the whole project narrative will need to be done. Chair Poremba stated that she would want to do the Brine tank project, but E. Ellinghausen will need to complete the write up. E. Ellinghausen said he will draft a document for C. Betz.

C. Betz clarified that the bag fees are reported within the Environmental Management Fund's budget to cover expenses related to landfill, and garbage collection. C. Betz stated that the Finance Department is expecting a reimbursement of \$60,000 from the bag fees.

d. Community Garden Discussion Topics – Additional Plots and SeedMoney Challenge Grant Funding

Chair Poremba said the additional plots will be placed in a different location than what the commission originally discussed. Chair Poremba referred to the packet of where the plots would be located. Chair Poremba stated that the location of the where the plots would be has to deal with water. S. Wenzel and E. Ellinghausen discussed the area of the plots and the concern of the neighbors. C. Betz clarified the map that the Parks Division provided and what would go into

making the area flat. C. Betz stated she will check with Chris Lynk on his plan to fill the areas that are not flat for the plots. Chair Poremba asked the commissioners if they would like to try and squeeze 10 more plots in or look at the north side of town and build plots. C. Betz and E. Ellinghausen discussed the logistics of the SeedMoney Challenge Grant Funding and avenues of funding. C. Betz will be getting a cost estimate to fill in the areas for the additional plots. E. Ellinghausen stated that there is a November 12th due date for the SeedMoney. C. Betz said that she is communicating with Terry Willcockson regarding the application.

Chair Poremba would like to speak more on the garden plots at the next commission meeting and where they are heading. They will also discuss the brine tank project details and Chair Poremba mentions discussing straws starting in January.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. Environmental Master Plan

Chair Poremba would like commission members to look at the Environmental Plan again and see if there are areas that need to be updated. She would like commission members to pick two things that the commission has not dealt with yet. Commission member M. Schneemann commented on Mr. Kuykendall's presentation. L. Kacmar discussed storm water management and asked whether there is a storm water management ordinance. C. Betz stated that there is a storm water ordinance. S. Wenzel, Chair Poremba and L. Kacmar discussed a rain garden. M. Schneemann mentioned the importance of rain water and recommended that the commission reach out to Brenda from Master Gardener to do the rain scaping.

b. Ellinghausen Brine Study – Bring back for discussion at November 4, 2021 meeting

c. Rain Gardens

d. Stormwater Runoff & Retention Management

7. ADJOURN: To a Regular Meeting Thursday, November 4, 2021

Motion by Chair Poremba second by S. Wenzel, to adjourn this regular meeting of the Environmental Commission. Ayes: E. Ellinghausen, L. Kacmar, M. Schneemann., S. Wenzel and Chair E. Poremba. Nays: None. Absentees: none. Abstentions: None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paola Ramirez
Minute Taker